

SELECTED JOURNALISTS' EXPERIENCES IN REPORTING
NATURAL DISASTERS

THESIS

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**SELECTED JOURNALISTS' EXPERIENCES IN
REPORTING NATURAL DISASTERS**

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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted to determine the experiences of selected journalists in the field of reporting natural disasters. Anchored on David Kolb's Experiential learning Theory, it also aimed to determine the demographic profile of selected journalists reporting natural disasters, to know how their career affects their private lives and to determine the individual realizations of the journalists as affected by their experiences.

Conducted from November 2015 to February 2016, descriptive method of research was applied through interviews. The interviewees came from TV, radio and print media and were chosen through snowball sampling technique. Two informants were chosen per medium. Transcribed interviews were used to process the gathered qualitative data.

Results revealed that informants have different experiences in line with reporting natural disasters. All of the informants are male, in the middle age, four of them are married and the remaining two are single. The study also revealed that journalism as a career really affects the private lives of the informants like they are having trouble on how to maximize their time for their job and for their family. When it comes to their individual realizations, each informant has different realizations as perceived by their experiences in reporting natural disasters such as; participants realized that they are over worked but under paid and some said that they are lucky enough for not experiencing those scenarios in calamities like typhoons and earthquakes.

The study revealed that the age range of the informants were from 29-44, four of them are married and the remaining two are single, and five of them are Roman Catholic and the remaining one is Iglesia Ni Cristo.

Selected Filipino journalists covering natural disasters have common experiences in reporting natural disasters like starvation, going under the floods when it comes on reporting natural disasters. All participants perceived that journalism is a career that really affects their private lives. The reveals that all married participants has hard time on how they will handle their career and not to sacrifice their family. The study reveal that participants realization in career seems that they are over worked but under paid, they are bridge, a public servant and driven on their career as a journalist especially as a reporter of natural disasters.

The researchers recommend to the media agencies to organize a seminar which can enhance and can train their reporters who are in the field of natural disasters. To the future researchers, the authors recommend to use this as a reference for the related studies especially when it comes to the phenomenology of reporting natural disasters. The future researchers can acquire some definite answers that can also help them for their research.

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SELECTED JOURNALISTS' EXPERIENCES IN REPORTING NATURAL DISASTERS

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INTRODUCTION

Media coverage of natural disasters - floods, blizzards, hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanoes – is, on the contrary, largely accepted as an accurate reflection of what really happened. The scale of the disaster is difficult to assess from news coverage. Most usually, the extent of the damage and the number of casualties are exaggerated, particularly in the developed world.

The reporting of natural disasters appears easy, but it is difficult to do convincingly. Over the past years, a series of calamities, surprisingly severe weather, has dominated the news for weeks at a time. Just over a year ago, Philippines was hit by an extreme typhoon that broke the records for being the most powerful typhoon (typhoon *Yolanda*) in the world history that killed over 7,000 people in Eastern and Western Visayas. Apart from that was the explosion of the magnitude 7.2 earthquake which affected the entire Central Visayas